

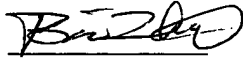


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service
As first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
20231 on December 29, 2003.*



Signature

Applicant : Bin Zhao
Application No. : 09/876,368
Filed : 06/07/2001
Title : Interleaver using spatial birefringent elements

Grp./Div. : 2872
Examiner : Craig Curtis
Client Matter :

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW ADDRESS: 14 Figaro
Irvine, CA 92606

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 03, 2003, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amend) An interleaver comprising:

a birefringent element assembly comprising at least one spatial birefringent element, the birefringent element assembly providing two output components;